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LABORATORY GLASS PRODUCTION FALLS

The May plan for the production of various medical products has been exceeded by 4 percent in all categories except laboratory glass. In some instances factories did not produce their quotas of such vital items as piramidon, calcium chloride, or benzoate of soda ampules, but this was attributed to unskilled labor and in some cases to poor administration. These defects have been rectified. Production of calcium chloride in ampules has grown considerably and production for the first 5 months of 1949 equals the total production for 1948. The factories producing medical equipment turned in the best performance for May. Out of 36 categories of equipment, they manufactured 33 categories. However, even in this field the manufacture of atomizers is proceeding badly. It appears that in all cases where production fell below the quota levels there was a breakdown of the administrative chain of command.

The Main Administration for Medical Industries has been doing a good job in general, but its attitude toward the laboratory glass factories is a black mark against its performance record. Some of the glass factories completed their May quotas, and in all cases one of the reasons given was lack of qualified personnel. In many of the cases it was also a matter of bad administration. Various other reasons have been submitted. For example at the Berezhicheskii Factory, Director Miller blames the chief machinist for not having completed the proper molds. Director Kuptsov of the Ufa Glass Factory blames slow progress of repairs to the smelting furnaces as the reason for his not fulfilling plans. Director Polyakov of the "Krasnoye Znamya" Factory blames the chief engineer for the poor quality of glass being produced. Director Lavrent'yev of the Bogashov Factory blames himself for not having provided enough fuel to keep the fires going.

A special meeting was held on 7 June to determine methods for liquidating the backlogs which the various factories had accumulated. It is suggested that the various methods be introduced into practice as early as possible, particularly in the laboratory glass industry.

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